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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/722,421	11/28/2003	Kenji Kataoka	117910	7386
25944	7590	09/15/2005	EXAMINER	
OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC P.O. BOX 19928 ALEXANDRIA, VA 22320			HOANG, JOHNNY H	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3747	

DATE MAILED: 09/15/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/722,421

Applicant(s)

KATAOKA ET AL.

Examiner

Johnny H. Hoang

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 November 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 4 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 2,3 and 5-10 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 28 November 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 1/8/04, 9/1/05
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Inventorship

1. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Moriya et al (US 6,704,642 B2).

The reference of Moriya et al discloses the valve timing control apparatus and method of internal combustion engine including the following subject matters: a stop control apparatus (col. 12, line 33 through col. 13, line 2) for an internal combustion engine, comprising:

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a valve mechanism (24) for operating at least one of an intake valve (19) and an exhaust valve (20) independently of an output shaft (14) of the internal combustion engine (11) [col. 9, line 7 through col. 10, line 43]; and

a valve controlling device (ECU 92) for controlling the operation of the valve mechanism (24) so that the internal combustion engine (11) is stopped in a predetermined state (col. 2, lines 6-36; col. 13, line 18 through col. 14, line 49).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Moriya et al.

The reference of Moriya et al discloses the valve timing control apparatus and method of internal combustion engine including a vacuum sensor (36) for detecting the intake pressure of the engine (11) is provided in the intake passage (32). Fuel injection valves (37) for injecting fuel into the intake ports (17) are provided at a downstream end of the intake passage (32). Each injection valve (37) injects fuel into the corresponding intake port (17) to form a mixture of fuel and air when air is drawn from the intake passage (32) into the corresponding combustion chamber (16) during the intake stroke of the engine (11) (see Fig. 1, and col. 9, lines 56-64).

Further more, the reference of Moriya et al discloses the cylinder head (15) is also provided with ignition plugs (38) for igniting mixtures that are charged into the corresponding combustion chambers (16). When an air-fuel mixture burns in a combustion chamber (16) upon ignition, combustion energy causes the piston (12) to reciprocate so as to turn or rotate

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the crankshaft (14), thereby driving the engine (11). After the mixture burns in the combustion chamber (16), exhaust is discharged into the exhaust passage (33) with the piston (12) ascending during the exhaust stroke of the engine (11) (see Fig. 1, and col. 9, line 65 through col. 10, line 7).

However, the reference of Moriya et al does not disclose the claimed subject matter regarding "compression strokes of the cylinders".

It would have been an obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have utilized the internal combustion engine being operating with the stroke in the combustion chamber would include the compression strokes.

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claims 2, 3, 5-10 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Ogiso (US 6,526,745 B1), and Moyer (US 5,529,549).

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Johnny H. Hoang whose telephone number is (571) 272-4843. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday (7:00Am-5: 30Pm).


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Henry Yuen can be reached on (571) 272-4856.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

JHH
September 8, 2005

Johnny H. Hoang
Examiner
Art Unit 3747


Tony M. Argenbright
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3747